

BRIERLEY HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending
December 31st, 1925.

BRIERLEY HILL:

U. Beddall, Printer and Stationer, 121, High Street.

Brierley Hill Urban District Council.



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COUNCILLOR A. E. MARSH, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :
COUNCILLOR J. CHATTIN.

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Medical Officer of Health :
H. D'ARCY ELLIS, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector :
H. J. PARKER, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Brierley Hill Urban District Council.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report and the Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1925. The Report is drawn on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health, *i.e.*, A Survey Report covering the previous five years. It also includes the Vital Statistics and progress during the year 1925.

Paragraph 3 of the Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health, dated 10th December, 1925, as to the contents and arrangements of the Annual Report of Medical Officers of Health for the year 1925 is as follows :—

“It was intimated in paragraph 13 of Circular 540 of the 18th December, 1924 that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1925 would be a Survey Report, and that in this Report the Medical Officer of Health should be prepared to deal comprehensively with :—

(a) The measure of progress made in the Area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health.

(b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the Area (*e.g.*, housing, water supply, sewerage, scavenging or refuse disposal, food inspection), or other services affecting the environment of the inhabitants ; and Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes, schemes for the treatment of

Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases, provision of Isolation Hospital, and other services directed to the prevention or cure of diseases in individuals.

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation and development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

The subjects to be dealt with in the Report fall under the following main headings :--

1. Natural and Social conditions of the Area.
2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.
3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
4. Housing.
5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.
7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

It is also stated in paragraph 5 that it is open to the Council to add anything it may desire, and that the Medical Officer of Health should discuss any special subject of importance to the health of the Area in the course of his Survey Report."

I. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District in Acres,	...	...	...	1,016
Population (Census 1921),	...	...	...	12,910

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Brierley Hill is essentially an industrial area. The population is almost entirely working class.

The district is situated in the South West of the County of Stafford, between the Urban Districts of Quarry Bank and Amblecote to the South and the Rural District of Kingswinford to the West and the County Borough of Dudley to the East.

Its average highest level is 477 feet and its average lowest level 397 feet.

The natural drainage is to the East and West into the River Stour and tributary streams.

The subsoil is mostly clay overlying the coal measures. The subsoil water is found at about 35 feet. Owing to the working of the mines very little natural land remains.

In practically all the streets the footpaths are paved.

The chief trades of the district are iron making, mining, brick making and glass manufacture. There is also a large bacon and ham factory and sanitary ware manufacture. With the exception of the iron works and collieries, the employment consists of both male and female labour.

None of these occupations have any particular influence on the health of the district, other than what is common to laborious occupations. At one time cases of lead poisoning were frequent among glass polishers and common turners. No case has been reported during the year.

The number of families and separate occupiers is (approx)	2,985
Rateable Value	... ... ... ... £43,000
Sum represented by a penny rate	... ... ... £180
Poor Law Relief	... ... ... £3,711 2s. 6d.

The Local Hospitals are very fully used.

Area and Population.—The area of the district is 1016 acres, the number of persons per acre 12 and the number of persons per house 4.5.

According to the 1921 Census the population was at that time 12,910 and the number of occupied houses 2,834. The estimated population to the middle of 1925 is 13,110.

It will be seen that the increase of population for the twenty years 1891-1911 was only at the rate of 20 per annum, although the birth-rate during that period was nearly twice as high as the death-rate. The obvious conclusion is that there must have been considerable emigration, reducing the population in young adults in whom the death-rate is low and unduly raising the general death-rate irrespective of local conditions. Emigration of the young manhood has not been due so much to the lack of opportunities for employment within the district, as to the fact that housing accommodation was not available.

The decadal period 1911-1921 shows the increase of population to be at the rate of 64 per annum, although during this period the

birth-rate was considerably reduced. The death-rate was considerably lowered also. I attribute the result to the reduced death-rate between the ages of 20 and 40 years and the reduced Infantile Mortality.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures represent the mean rates for the past five years :—

			1920-1924.
Birth-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	22.83
Death-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	12.78
Infantile Mortality per 1000 Registered births	...	...	91
Zymotic Mortality	...	...	0.40
Diphtheria	...	...	0.50
Enteric Fever	...	...	0.01
Diarrhoea	...	...	0.86
Phthisis	...	...	0.80
Cancer	...	...	1.07
Influenza	...	...	0.60
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	2.40

For the year ending 1925 the rates are :—

Birth-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	19.90
Death-rate per 1000 of population	...	...	9.4
Infantile Mortality per 1000 Registered births	...	...	61
Zymotic Mortality per 1000 of population	...	...	0.22
Enteric Fever per 1000 of population	...	...	0.00
Diarrhoea per 1000 of population	...	...	0.00
Phthisis (Pulmonary) per 1000 of population	...	...	0.84
Cancer	...	...	1.60
Diphtheria	...	...	0.00
Influenza	...	...	0.22
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1.10

Ages at which death occurred (all causes).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over.
16	7	5	1	18	30	47

Twenty-four of these deaths were over 70 years of age and twelve over 80 years.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	132	121	253
Illegitimate	...	3	5	8
		Total	...	261

Birth-rate 1925—19.90 1924—23.4

DEATHS

Males	...	...	...	...	...	67
Females	...	...	...	...	...	58
			Total	...		125

Death-rate 1925—9·4 1924—10·51

No woman died in consequence of child-birth.

Deaths of children under 1 year of age:—

Legitimate 15	Illegitimate 1	...	Total 16
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
5	1	2	2	10	2	1	—	3	16

TABLE X.—**Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality** during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.
		Under One Year.	Under Two Years.		
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	10.0	8.4	92.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18.8	12.2	10.0	8.01	92.1
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	18.3	11.2	9.0	7.6	93.0
London ...	18.0	11.7	9.0	7.4	93.0
Brierley Hill ...	19.9	9.4	9.0	6.9	92.0
				0.8	0.8
				0.0	0.0

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.—

1 Tuberculosis, provided by County Council. There are three within easy distance of the district.

- (a) Prestwood.
- (b) Kinver.
- (c) Himley (children).

2 Maternity none.

3 Children none.

4 Fever. Isolation Hospital, provided by Local Council, situate within Quarry Bank area, 16 beds.

5 Smallpox. Above erected for Smallpox, but used for other Infectious Diseases.

6 Other. Dudley Guest Hospital, 5 miles, 100 beds. Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, 2 miles, 30 beds. No subsidy in either case.

No institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance Facilities.—

- (a) For infectious cases, one at Hospital
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, Town Motor Ambulance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—One Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (for consultation and treatment).

Day Nurseries.—None.

School Clinics.—One.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—None. Patients attended at Dudley (Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Tuberculosis Committee).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

(1) Clerk : Part time.

(2) Medical Officer of Health : Part time. One half of salary received under Public Health Act.

(3) Surveyor: Whole time and Assistant.

(4) Sanitary Inspector: Whole time and one Clerk. (Cert. R.S.I. and Meat and Foods). One half of salary.

(5) One Health Visitor (Certified): County contributor for Tuberculosis Visiting.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

(a) General.

There is a good Voluntary Nursing Association. They provide one Hospital Trained District Nurse. The Local Authority makes a contribution to these funds.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, an Epidemic of Measles, a second Nurse is engaged if necessary, under arrangement with the County Nursing Association.

Midwives Acts Administered by County Council.—

(1) Five practising in the District.

(2) No subsidy by Local Authority.

Chemical Work.—Any analysis required is referred to the Public Analyst at Wolverhampton.

Bacteriology.—By arrangement with the County Council at the Bacteriological Department, Wolverhampton.

101 swabs and sputum were sent for examination:—

Tubercle Bacilli	43.	Positive	5.	Negative	38.
Diphtheria	56.	"	11.	"	45.
Enteric Fever	2.	"	1.	"	1.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Company, the supply being pumped from the works at Ashwood and Hinkford. Both of these pumping stations are well out in the agricultural area, the supply is constant. With the exception of a few outlying places the whole of the population is connected. There is no possibility of contamination and no lead solvent action. No action to deal with contamination has been necessary during the year. A recent analysis shows that the water is of excellent quality.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—With the exception of certain small parts of the district which are subject to mining operations, every property that can be, has been put on the water carriage system. The details asked for will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Closet Accommodation.—A detailed statement in this case does not seem to be necessary as the conservancy system has been abolished wherever it has been possible; where it is not possible is in the mining area. We will have to wait for some years before this area can be dealt with, but in the meantime the Sanitary Inspector has done all that is possible to prevent nuisances by the institution of pan-closets which are emptied weekly. In this case also the details asked for will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—This question and the special points following will be dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions of the elementary schools are generally satisfactory. There is a constant and good water supply. The School Medical Officer looks after the health of the scholars, for the prevention of the spread of Infectious Diseases. Any outbreak requiring action is referred to the Education Authority's Medical Officer at Stafford. Notice is sent to me by the head teacher and if exclusion will meet the case that practice is adopted.

4. HOUSING.

- (i) General Housing Conditions.
- (ii) Overcrowding.
- (iii) Fitness of Houses.

The particulars required under these points will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report (page 25).

- (iv) **Unhealthy Areas.**—No complaints or representations.

- (v) **Bye-Laws.**—New Bye-Laws have been adopted.

- (vi) **General and Miscellaneous.**—The action taken with regard to overcrowding, insanitary property and housing under the Housing Acts, and Public Health Acts, has been along general lines and has been fairly successful, overcrowding being the most difficult problem.

For trade refuse a Destructor has been provided.

The Council has pushed the building of New Houses for the working classes to the almost utmost limit of available and suitable land within the district. I consider the progress made has been very creditable and satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	113
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts :—					
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	110
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	3

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	169
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	57
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	8
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	71

2. *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	32
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0
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B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	101
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	87
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15, of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	8
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories including Factory Laundries	21	2	
Workshops " Workshop "			
Workplaces other than Outworkers premises	66	10	
... ...			
Total 	87	12	

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of cleanliness 	2	2		
Want of ventilation 				
Overcrowding 				
Want of drainage of floors 				
Other nuisances 	4	4		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupations of underground Bake- houses (s. 101) 				
Other offences 	6	6		
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.				
Total 	12	12		

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The milk supplied within and without this area, is, I believe, of a pure and wholesome character. There is an increasing demand for sterilised bottle milk.

The special information and details required under this heading will be found fully set forth in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Meat.—Public Health (Meat) Regulations (1924).

The information requested will also be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report with one exception.

The exception is the method adopted at Messrs. Marsh and Baxter's Factory, with the consent of the Ministry.

This factory has established all the modern improvements for slaughtering and subsequent handling of meat. The firm have two whole time Veterinary Surgeons (appointed by the Council) in daily attendance. The animals slaughtered consist of pigs, cattle and sheep and average between 1,500 and 2,000 weekly.

Any animal found so diseased as to be unfit for human food is put aside, labelled and if necessary condemned and destroyed in the firm's own destructor. Every week I receive a list of diseased conditions found. A copy of this list is also sent weekly to Dr. McFadden at the Ministry of Health. I have frequently visited the factory and seen how the work and marking is done. I am satisfied that as far as is humanly possible, every precaution is taken to produce wholesome and clean food. The two Veterinary Surgeons very thoroughly and conscientiously discharge the work of supervision, inspection and pathological investigation.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.—There has been no particular prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the year.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.—Supply kept at the Sanitary Inspector's Office, free to the local Doctors. It has been promptly used in all the cases.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Two cases have been notified.

Scarlet Fever.—No return cases.

Pneumonia.—Notifications received 35.

Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever.—No notification.

With regard to the arrangements made for examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens, the particulars are set out on page 10. Swabs have frequently been taken to discover contacts and carrier cases, and, if found, disinfected and isolated. There have been no special difficulties in dealing with these cases.

Schick and Dick Tests.—Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever have not been used.

No re-vaccinations by the Medical Officer of Health, the public were notified but no applications have been received.

With regards to non-notifiable diseases, notification on form 124 E of the Staffordshire Education Committee are received from the head teacher, and as far as possible the children are isolated. No school closure has been necessary.

No epidemic of Influenza has occurred.

Verminous Persons.—No case has been reported. There is an excellent super-heated disinfecter at the Isolation Hospital, which is used if the necessity should arise. Verminous children are treated at the School Clinic.

Cancer.—The deaths from this disease during the five years, 1920-1924, average 12.

For the year 1925 the number is, 17.

The ages at which the 1925 deaths occurred is :—

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
0	0	0	0	0	8	9

The occupation of the persons who died from Cancer during 1925, is :—

Housewife	7	Ironworkers	3
Glassmaker	1	Blacksmiths	2
Road Man	1	Brickyard Labourer	1
Commissionaire	1	Sadler	1
		Total	...
			17

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1925.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases	AGES.										Cases sent to Hospital.	Deaths
		1 under 1 year	2 to 2 years	3 to 3 years	4 to 4 years	5 to 5 years	10 to 10 years	15 to 15 years	20 to 20 years	35 to 35 years	45 to 45 years		
Smallpox	10	...	...	...	3	4	2	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria	17	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...
Scarlet Fever	5	10	1	...	...	10	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	10	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	35	6	6	3	3	3	5	1	2	1	4	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Totals	...	74	6	6	3	4	3	15	16	7	5	3	7

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								1
1				1				1
5	1			3				
10	1		1				1	
15	2							
20	4	1						
25	1	2		1		1	3	
35	2	1				1	1	
45	1					2		
55		1				1		
65 & upwards								
Total ...	12	5	1	5	6	5		2

Deaths—6 old cases. 4 Males 2 Females.
 6 new cases. 2 Males 4 Females.

All of the cases that died during the year, with the exception of a child that died of Meningitis in a Showman's Van, had been previously notified.

The dates of Notification of the six new cases that died (Cases Notified during 1925) are as follows :—

Date of Notification.	Date of Death.
26th January.	12th March.
22nd May.	22nd May.
29th June.	31st August.
7th August.	4th December.
19th October.	21st October.
27th November.	2nd December.

The number of cases on the Register at 31st December, was 50. At 31st December, 1924, it was 57.

Notification is carried out satisfactorily in the District.

43 Swabs were taken of which 5 were positive and 38 negative.

Occupation of Adults who died from Tuberculosis :—

Housewives	3	Coal Loader	1
General Labourers	2	Glass Cutter	1
Steel Smelter	1	Clerk	1
Woollen Merchant	1		

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the Area.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken under these Regulations. The necessity has not arisen.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.

There was one case. A young married woman came from Pontefract, in the last stage of the disease, to her parents' home, where there were several young children. Removal was strongly resisted, both by the patient and her parents. By the time an order could be obtained, she was too ill to be removed, and in fact a few days later died.

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There is one Centre at Brierley Hill and one in the adjoining District of Amblecote, both under a Joint Committee appointed by the respective Councils. There is also a Joint Voluntary Committee of Ladies. Two of these ladies are co-opted on the Joint Committee of the Councils.

At Brierley Hill there are two weekly Clinics, at one of which the Medical Officer attends and gives advice to expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age.

There are no maternity homes or hospitals specially provided, there are facilities for maternity cases at the Union Infirmary. The class of mother whom it would benefit are very reluctant to go there.

Children are admitted to the local hospitals when it is necessary, (under the Voluntary system). No subsidy is paid.

There have been no maternal deaths.

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate or destitute children are provided for at the Union Infirmary when necessary. Still births and Infant deaths are enquired into by the Health Visitor and reported to the Medical Officer.

There is a regular supply of food and milk provided partly by the Guardians, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer and Health Visitor, and partly by the Ladies Committee.

Orthopaedic treatment can be obtained at Birmingham when necessary.

**CASES OF OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR.**

No. of Cases	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision un-impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
I	I	o	Yes	No	None	None

With regard to the Notification of Births, there has always been some unaccounted for at the end of the year. During the year 1925, at the end of October there were 27 omissions. Through an arrangement of Returns which we get through the Registrar, we were able to trace all of these cases and get them on the list.

The defaulters have all promised to be more careful in future.

The following figures are taken from the Health Visitor's Books:—

Notification of Births :—

Legitimate	Illegitimate	S. B.	Notified by Midwives	Notified by Parents and Doctors	Not notified
259	8	4	180	81	

Visits of Health Visitor:—

1st Visits	Re-visits.
26	60
193	2977
ember 31st, 1925	... 1890

Total attendances :-

(a) Children	...	...	...	...	2509
(b) Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	94
Medically examined	...	...	...	...	222

Tuberculosis :-

Visits of Health Visitor, 391. New Cases, 17.

Relief provided by Ladies' Voluntary Committee	£	55	17	0
Total amount realised by voluntary effort	£	58	3	1

Our thanks are again due to the Ladies' Voluntary Committee for their continued interest and splendid help in the success of the Centre. I am not only expressing my own opinion, but also that of the Committee generally, in stating that we are most grateful to these ladies for their untiring and valuable assistance.

Sanitary progress at Brierley Hill has considerably accelerated during the period of five years under review. We began the year 1920 with an estimated shortage of houses of 349, of this number 241 have been erected and occupied, and 154 are in course of erection or sanctioned.

With regard to other sanitary work, the town is cleaner than it has ever been, chiefly owing to the abolition of privies and midden pits, and completion of the weekly removal and bin system.

With regard to the questions I have been pressing, motor ambulance, playing fields, recreation ground, a cemetery, mortuary and destructor all have been established. The question of a more efficient means of Isolation for all infectious diseases and public baths are points which require consideration.

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

April 12th, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report on the work carried out in my Department.

Generally the work of repairs to the houses of the working classes has been fairly well maintained.

Many owners have carried out repairs to their premises without any notice from this Department.

In some of the older houses where the fabric has commenced to decay, things are not so satisfactory. The continual repairs required to keep the houses in good condition make it almost impossible to make both ends meet.

Legal Proceedings were resorted to in one case only, which is very satisfactory.

Three ash receptacles were provided at two sets of premises in default. In one case the owner appealed to the Minister of Health, who, after the full details were forwarded, informed the owner that this Authority had acted within their powers. The account was paid and the proceedings withdrawn.

Complaints.

In all, 171 complaints were received against 147 for the previous year. 133 related to stoppages in drain pipes. The remaining 38 were various conditions, all of which were investigated and action taken where necessary.

Infectious Disease.

69 visits were made to cases of Infectious Disease, including re-visits where cases were isolated at home. 13 cases were removed to Hospital, 35 houses and a large quantity of bedding and clothing were disinfected.

The following articles were disinfected at the Hospital with steam :—

28 Beds.	53 Blankets.
23 Bolsters.	30 Sheets.
24 Pillows.	26 Covers.

Food Inspection.

The arrival of the Meat Regulations in March were very welcome, there can be no doubt as to their value.

The regulations have been carried out by all Traders in this Area with very little inconvenience to themselves.

It was necessary in one case to send a letter of warning to one Company, re exposing hams outside the shop. This had the desired affect.

All the Butchers' shops in this District have closed Windows. There are two cases where Provision Merchants still open the window of the bacon and ham side. This practice will, I hope, shortly cease.

The Meat Stalls in the Public Market have been re-constructed to meet the requirements of the Regulations.

Partitions have been provided, rear walls lined with matchboard and the roof also lined, proper hanging accommodation has been provided with front benches and shelves.

In this respect the owners of the Market, through their Local representative, carried out all my requirements.

Proper arrangements have also been made for the cleansing of the stalls, before and after use.

The quality of Meat brought into the Market has improved ; no doubt the Regulations have had a helping hand in this direction, providing for the inspection of meat at time of slaughter.

There are 11 slaughter houses on the register, several of which have not been used for some time. Your attention has been called to these, and it is hoped that their use as slaughter houses will not be resumed, owing to the close proximity of dwelling houses.

During the year an application was received for the erection of a new slaughter house; owing to the proximity of dwelling houses the slaughter house was not sanctioned.

In all, 599 visits have been paid to the various slaughter houses, the major portion being at the time of slaughter.

The following have been examined from March to December :—

Beasts	...	...	...	168
Pigs	...	...	...	1618
Sheep	...	...	...	349
Calves	...	...	...	12

In all 1248 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned and destroyed, of which 852 lbs. was Tuberculous.

In addition 11 lbs. of Mushrooms and 1 Tin of American Ox Tongue (6 lbs.), were destroyed.

Factories and Workshops Act.

Bakehouses.

There are 15 Bakehouses in the District. On the whole they are kept fairly clean.

Notices were served as follows during the year :—

Dirty walls and ceilings	...	...	...	3
Insanitary surface of Bakehouse yard	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	81

Workshops.

The total number of Workshops on the Register is 52. One notice of occupation of Workshops was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. No notice of defect was received.

Notices served :—

Dirty walls of Workshops	...	...	...	8
Defective roof	...	...	...	1
No suitable fire escape	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	66

Outworkers.

Eight Outworkers' Lists were received notifying 14 Outworkers, 8 of whom resided in other Districts.

No case of Infectious Disease occurred at any of the Outworkers premises.

Offensive Trades.

There were four complaints during the year due to trades which come under this heading, although not at present scheduled. All the complaints related to one factory. As no complaints have been received for a considerable period, it is hoped that the nuisance will not recur.

Bye-Laws have been passed by your Council for the regulating of all offensive trades, but are still not in force owing to the approval of the Ministry having not yet being obtained.

Cowsheds.

There are 9 Cowkeepers using 12 sheds in the District, all of which are regularly inspected both for cleanliness and good condition of the cattle.

New drainage has been carried out at one shed.

Still more attention is necessary to cleanliness of hands and udders.

Some Cowkeepers have the idea that so long as the milk is sieved before being sold, there can be no dirt left in the milk, and naturally with this idea they consider the extra precautions asked for when milking entirely unnecessary.

The provision of proper washing facilities for the hands of milkers, will, I hope, be included in the regulation now being drafted.

Notices served for limewashing	...	...	...	5
Notices served for dirty floors	...	...	...	1
No proper drainage	...	...	...	1
Dirty milk bucket	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	83

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act.

There are 61 Retail Purveyors on the Register. There is no milk retailed from any Hucksters' Shops, except in sealed bottles or tins.

Eight Retail Purveyors reside outside the District.

There are 16 Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk, five of whom Bottle Sterilized Milk.

On the whole the condition of the premises is generally very fair.

There were five Retailers registered during the year.

Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	82

Housing.

Overcrowding still remains a great problem.

I am pleased to report that greater progress has been made in abating cases of overcrowding. A number of cases have been reported to the Housing Allocation Committee, who allocated a house in practically every case on your Council's Housing Sites.

It was necessary in one case of overcrowding to take legal proceedings. In this case, in spite of a notice that two families were overcrowding, a house having only one living room and two bedrooms, an additional family were taken in.

An order was obtained for two of the families to quit the house.

There are still a number of overcrowding cases on our books, which cannot be relieved at present, owing, in some of the cases, to the bread winners being out of employ, consequently they are unable to afford the new rents.

That your Council have not been unmindful to the overcrowding may be seen that by the end of the year 241 new houses have been erected and occupied, and 154 houses were in course of erection.

Taking the normal increase of houses per annum as 30, approximately an additional 80 houses require to be erected in the coming year, over and above those already contracted for, before the deficit of houses is brought up to date.

This, of course, does not take any account of the houses that are unfit and past repair.

Houses dealt with under the Housing Acts.

80, Mill Street.

Closing Order made 5th January, 1925. House thoroughly repaired by owner. Closing Order determined 2nd March, 1925.

51 and 1 house "G Court," Chapel Street.

Closing Order made 5th January, 1925. Notice to tenants 6th February, 1925. Houses were back to back, converted into one house and thoroughly repaired. Closing Order determined 2nd November, 1925.

25, Delph Lane.

Closing Order made 2nd February, 1925. Tenant vacated without notice. House reconstructed. Closing Order determined 8th June, 1925.

16, Amblecote Road.

Closing Order made 6th July, 1925. Tenant vacated without notice. House reconstructed. Closing Order determined 2nd November, 1925.

2, 3, 4, Plant's Hollow, Brettell Lane.

Closing Order made 7th September, 1925. Notice to tenants 5th October, 1925. Tenants still in occupation at end of year.

Magisterial Proceedings during the Year.

Nature of Offence	Result
Premises at Nos. 2, 3, 4, "E" Court Fenton Street, in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health. (P.H. Act, 1875, Sec. 91-94).	Adjourned for fourteen days. Withdrawn on payment of costs. £2 8s. od.
Premises at No. 2, "A" Court, South Street, being so overcrowded as to be a nuisance or injurious to health. (P.H. Act, 1875, Sec. 91-94).	Order for nuisance to be abated within 21 days and costs. 5s.

Canal Boats Acts.

Number of Canal Boats on Register	...	...	20
Number inspected during the year	...	...	7
Registered during the year	...	...	Nil

The seven Boats inspected had registered accommodation for 21 adults. There were found aboard, six men, seven women and 10 children. The boats were in good condition with one exception, which required re-painting, and was also overcrowded.

Shops Acts.

There are 310 shops on the Register. Two warning letters of infringements were issued.

On the whole, the shopkeepers carried out the Regulations fairly well.

House Refuse Removal.

This work is carried out by direct labour. A weekly collection is made throughout the whole district, ashpits being emptied each week as well as the ashbins.

The work is being carried out without any complaint on the part of the public.

A continuous system of loading is still used, two horses and carts, together with six men, forming one gang.

A daily collection is made from all fish shops and premises where a large amount of waste paper is made, a charge being made for this service.

In all, 538 tubs of fish, 2 loads and 966 bags of paper were removed during the year.

All the refuse is tipped.

There have been no complaints re the tips, a man being sent round daily to keep them clean.

During the year a small Destructor was purchased, to burn trade refuse, but owing to an objection as to its position, it has not yet been used. I hope a site will shortly be procured, so that it can be established. I have no doubt that two or three small fires at the Cottage Street Tip arose from spontaneous combustion of refuse, which would otherwise have been burnt in the Destructor.

The following is a comparative statement of the Refuse collected during the past six years. :—

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Total number of ashbins emptied	68,684	74,450	78,921	82,197	84,500	93,050
Total number of loads removed from bins and pits	4,838	4,554	4,126	3,870	3,625	3,652
Total number of ashpits emptied	937	1,276	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Total number of privy midden pits emptied ...	480	539	554	411	249	194
Total number of loads from privy midden pits ...	991	532	517	441	301	234
Total number of pan-closets emptied	197	146	572	1,092	2,320	2,985
Total number of loads from pan-closets	—	—	—	51	104	104
Total number of loads of Trade Refuse ...	—	17	191	212	241	285

Tips Used.

Cottage Street	...	...	...	1,652	loads.
Moor Lane	...	...	...	439	"
Seven Dwelling	...	...	...	535	"
Taylor's Tip	...	...	...	363	"
John Street	...	...	...	577	"
Turner's Lane	...	...	...	386	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	323	"

**Cost of Removal and Disposal of House Refuse,
from 1st January to 31st December, 1925.**

EXPENDITURE.

Removal		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages	...	753	11	10			
Horse Forage, etc.	...	145	3	6			
Purchase of Horses	...	118	0	0			
Horse Keeper	...	87	15	0			
Repairs (Carts and Harness)	...	36	4	10			
Depot Charges (Rates, Taxes, etc.)		35	9	1			
Shoeing	...	25	19	5			
Stores	...	3	5	0			
Insurance Contributions	...	25	0	0			
					1230	8	8

Disposal		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Destructor and Fittings	...	89	11	7			
Wages, Cleaning Tips	...	41	0	11			
Rent of Tips ...	...	27	9	9	158	2	3
					1388	10	11

Income		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Horse Hire (Surveyor's Dept.)	...	44	4	7			
Removal of Trade Refuse	...	34	14	8			
Sale of Horses	...	25	13	9	104	13	0
Nett Cost	...				1283	17	11

1. Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	97	18	8
2. Removal cost per house or shop, per annum					8	2
3. Removal cost per load	...	...	...		5	9
4. Rate in £ required	...	...	...			7
5. Total number of loads removed				4,275		

Petroleum Acts.

During the year 25 Licences to store Petrol, and 7 to store Calcium Carbide, were issued.

No infringements were noted.

**Sanitary Improvements carried out as a result of
Inspections made and Notices Served.**

Dwelling Houses.

Roofs stripped	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	53
Cleansed and whitewashed after Infectious Disease						9
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31

Walls, plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	37
Defective house chimneys	...	...	...	11
New sash cords to windows provided	...	...	...	33
New windows provided	...	...	...	6
Windows made to open	..	...	...	16
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	9
Yard paving relaid	...	...	...	2
Gable wall cemented	...	...	...	1
House brickwork repaired	...	...	...	14
Door frames, sills, etc., repaired	...	...	...	18
Bedroom floors repaired	...	...	...	7
Stairs repaired and made safe	...	...	...	5
Firegrates repaired or new provided	...	...	...	5
Dirty houses (Tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	4
Damp walls abated	...	...	...	6
Rain water spouting repaired	...	...	...	30
Cases of overcrowding dealt with	...	...	...	12
No water supply	...	...	...	1
Pantries limewashed	...	...	...	18
Pantries ventilated	...	...	...	2

Wash-houses, Water-closets, etc.

Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc., limewashed	...	...	...	91
Wash-house floors relaid	...	...	...	3
Wash-house roofs repaired and re-roofed	...	...	...	5
Water Closet roofs repaired and re-roofed	...	...	...	9
Firegrates to washing furnaces repaired	...	...	...	11
Brickwork of washing furnaces repaired	...	...	...	14
New earthenware sinks provided	...	...	...	5
Wash-houses and Water Closets brickwork repaired	...	...	...	12
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Wash-houses re-built	...	...	...	1
New windows to Wash-houses	...	...	...	3
Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	1
Dirty condition of W.C. pans (Tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	12
Water Closet flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	...	7
Dirty condition of yards (Tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	8
Woodwork of Water Closets and Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	14

Drainage.

Insanitary traps taken out	...	...	...	2
Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	133
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	9
New drainage laid	...	...	...	4
Houses provided with proper drainage	...	...	...	5
Cesspool constructed	...	...	...	2
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	1
Gully traps provided to drain inlets	...	...	...	9

Privies, Pan Closets, Ashpits, etc.

Additional Pan Closets provided	...	...	...	3
Insanitary ashpits taken down	...	...	...	8
Galvanised Ash receptacles provided	...	...	...	41
Pan Closets provided	...	...	...	3
Brickwork of privies repaired	...	...	...	4
Insanitary privies reconstructed	...	...	...	3

Other Nuisances.

Offensive Ditch	...	...	...	...	1
Stables undrained	...	...	...	...	2
Stables limewashed	...	...	...	...	3
Pigstys cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	2
Pig-keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	1
Fowl-keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from other animals abated	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulation of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	12
No manure receptacles	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	22

Notices.

Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	203
Statutory Notices served (Nuisances)	...	...	...	...	26
Statutory Notices served (Ash Receptacles)	...	...	...	...	13
Statutory Notices served (Dirty Houses)	...	...	...	...	14
Letters sent	...	...	...	...	320
Notices to Head Teachers and Attendance Officers	...	...	...	...	38
Notices to Parents	...	...	...	...	22

H. J. PARKER,

April 12th, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of Ashpits and Privies.														
	1127	562	373	299	278	269	251	247	224	195	170	123	93	91
Number of Water Closets (including Works and Schools, etc.)														
	880	1532	1949	2084	2110	2135	2153	2177	2224	2277	2325	2369	2431	2511
Number of Slop Closets.														
	19	19	19	19	19	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Number of Dry Ashpits.														
	249	386	385	375	371	370	368	368	361	315	300	261	249	247
Number of Ash Bins.														
	402	834	1356	1441	1482	1501	1517	1545	1601	1639	1669	1680	1761	1873
Number of Pan Closets.														
	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	18	24	21	59	80	78
Number of Privies demolished or converted.														
	289	565	189	74	23	9	8	15	35	51	43	33	31	7

